

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) Spinal reconstruction apparatus, comprising:
a superior facet complex[[: and]] including a plate having an upper portion, a lower portion, and a vertical midline, with the upper portion being adapted for fixation to an upper vertebral body;
~~one or more~~ a pair of inferior gliding arms ~~received by the superior facet complex~~
extending downwardly from the lower portion of the plate on respective sides of the midline, each
gliding arm having a longitudinal axis, an upper end with a first coupling to the superior facet
complex, and a lower end with a second coupling to a lower vertebral body;
at least the first coupling providing a limited degree of axial movement of each gliding arm
to facilitate flexion, extension, and lateral bending ~~and/or other movements.~~
2. (Currently Amended) The spinal reconstruction apparatus of claim 1, wherein the ~~superior facet complex utilization~~ upper portion of the plate utilizes pedicle fixation ~~with soft tissue attachment points.~~
3. (New) The spinal reconstruction apparatus of claim 1, wherein the lower end of each gliding arm utilizes pedicle fixation.
4. (New) The spinal reconstruction apparatus of claim 1, wherein the first coupling includes a slot on the plate and a pin on the gliding arm that slides along the slot.
5. (New) The spinal reconstruction apparatus of claim 1, wherein the second coupling provides a limited degree of axial movement of each gliding arm.
6. (New) The spinal reconstruction apparatus of claim 1, wherein the second coupling includes a slot on the gliding arm and a pedicle screw with a pin or ball that engages with the slot.

7. (New) The spinal reconstruction apparatus of claim 1, wherein the first coupling provides a limited degree of pivoting from side to side.

8. (New) The spinal reconstruction apparatus of claim 1, wherein the upper end of each gliding arm is received by a lower sleeve on either side of the plate.

9. (New) The spinal reconstruction apparatus of claim 1, wherein each gliding arm extends downwardly and away from the midline at an angle.

10. (New) The spinal reconstruction apparatus of claim 1, wherein the superior facet complex further includes an outer surface with soft tissue attachment points.

11. (New) Spinal reconstruction apparatus, comprising:
a superior facet complex including a plate having an upper portion, a lower portion, and a vertical midline, the upper portion being adapted for fixation to an upper vertebral body using pedicle screws;

a pair of inferior gliding arms extending downwardly from the lower portion of the plate on respective sides of the midline at outward angles, each gliding arm having a longitudinal axis, an upper end with a first coupling to the superior facet complex, and a lower end with a second coupling to a lower vertebral body using pedicle screws;

both the first and second couplings providing a limited degree of axial movement of each gliding arm to facilitate flexion, extension, and lateral bending.

12. (New) The spinal reconstruction apparatus of claim 11, wherein the first coupling further provides a limited degree of pivoting from side to side.

13. (New) The spinal reconstruction apparatus of claim 11, wherein the upper end of each gliding arm is received by a lower sleeve on either side of the plate.

14. (New) The spinal reconstruction apparatus of claim 11, wherein the superior facet complex further includes an outer surface with soft tissue attachment points.

15. (New) The spinal reconstruction apparatus of claim 11, further including:
an upper superior facet complex and a lower superior facet complex, both with gliding arms; and

wherein the lower ends of the gliding arms associated with the upper superior facet complex attach to the upper portion of the lower superior facet complex using pedicle screws,

thereby facilitating a limited degree of flexion, extension, and lateral bending across multiple spinal levels.